| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (iv) Radio Mid-day (West) |
| | | | (v) Millennium Broadcast Pvt. Ltd. (Mumbai) (closed down). |
| 3. | Kolkata | 4 | (i) ENIL, |
| | | | (ii) Radio Today (Kolkata) |
| | | | (iii) Hitz.FM Pvt. Ltd. |
| | | | (iv) India FM Pvt. Ltd. |
| 4. | Chennai | 2 | (i) ENIL, (ii) SUN TV |
| 5. | Bangalore | 1 | MBPL |
| 6. | Ahmedabad | 1 | ENIL |
| 7. | Lucknow | 1 | MBPL |
| 8. | Pune | 1 | ENIL |
| 9. | Indore | 1 | ENIL |
| 10. | Visakhapatnam | 1 | UDAYA T.V. |
| 11. | Tirunelveli | 1 | SUN T.V. |
| 12. | Coimbatore | 1 | SUN T.V. |

(b) The players have expressed problem with exceptionally high annual license fee determined through open auction.

(c) to (f) Government had sought TRAI's recommendations for the phase-II FM Radio Broadcasting Policy, which has recommended closed bidding process for one time entry fee and annual sharing @ 4 % of gross revenue instead of annual license fee as at present. TRAI's recommendations are at advanced stage of consideration.

**Charges by cable operators**

*79. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cable operators have been allowed to charge at will till December, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government will be able to take a decision on CAS by that time; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed CAS regulations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No Sir. The charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators and by cable operators to multi system operators/ broadcasters are being regulated by TRAI. The charges have been frozen at the levels of 26.12.2003. To allow for inflation, these charges have been allowed an increase upto 7% with effect from 1.1.2005. These ceilings do not apply to pay channels, which have come after 26.12.2003 or to FTA (Free-to-air) channesl converted to pay after 26.12.2003. However, TRAI has specified that rates of these channels must be similar to the rates of similar channels as on 26.12.2003 and provided on a stand-alone basis either individually or as a part of new separate bouquet. TRAI has specified a reporting requirement in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on 1st October, 2004, has furnished its recommendations on issues relating to Broadcasting and distribution of TV channels. The Ministry has sought the views of the State Governments on these recommendations. While no time frame could be indicated for a final decision on these recommendations, efforts are being made to expedite the process.

**National Policy for senior citizens**

*80. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India has around 77 million senior citizens (above the age of 60) and out of these, around 61 per cent live below the poverty line or without any pension;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has a National Policy that promises to help elders to live the last phase of their lives with purpose, dignity and peace; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement the policy and to safeguard the lives and properties of the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) As per the Census 2001, India has